

## Area Residents Cope with UCSF Expansion

By Julie Mitchell

While many San Franciscans look forward to the economic and scientific benefits likely to emerge from the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Mission Bay campus, some nearby residents are alarmed at the university's rapid acquisition and development of properties well outside the original campus boundaries. Neighborhood sensitivity to the growing campus is particularly high because, as a state-run institution, UCSF is exempt from local planning laws, which would normally serve to help protect existing communities from the adverse consequences of new construction. Increased traffic and difficulty parking are just a couple of the issues facing the neighborhood as UCSF continues to expand.

According to Dogpatch resident Janet Carpinelli, "UCSF has already encroached into the Dogpatch neighborhood. It bought 654 Minnesota Street across from Esprit Park and is apparently closing a deal for the old Copenhagen Furniture store at Third and 18th streets, even though at a Dogpatch [Neighborhood Association] meeting in October, UCSF representatives claimed that they were 'looking' at the building. Apparently a donor is actually buying the building.... An additional problem is the proposed UCSF hospital just south of the campus. That is causing even more pressure for expansion into the community."

A dozen and a half years ago similar, if smaller in scope, concerns plagued Pacific Heights residents after UCSF opened its Laurel Heights campus, a 465,000-square-foot building that sits on 10.9 acres of land that was once part of the historic Laurel Hill Cemetery. The university originally wanted to house biomedical laboratories for its School of Pharmacy at the site, but the community strenuously objected. After an eight-year legal battle UCSF changed its plans; today various academic and university administrative groups – including the community relations office, human resources, and the Medical Effective Research Center for Diverse Populations – are housed at the Laurel Heights campus.

The university's first Community Advisory Group (CAG) played a key role in guiding UCSF's relationship with the communities in which it's

located. Formed in 1992, the CAG is composed of San Franciscans who are interested in influencing UCSF's land use policies. The most tangible evidence of the CAG's impact was the UC Board of Regents' adoption

– with overwhelming community support – of the 1996 UCSF Long Range Development Plan. The plan guides UCSF's land development practices. Its overall goals are to meet UCSF's future space needs through

reducing the use of the Parnassus Heights campus; expanding to other areas, particularly Mission Bay; and consolidating academic and administrative offices currently

Continued on Page 3

## Students Build Boat (and Sail It)



Downtown High School students enrolled in Ed Cavanaugh's "Get Out and Learn" program build essential team-building and job skills through project-based learning and hands-on experience. Story on Page 6. Photo by Ed Cavanaugh

## Local Theater Companies Provide Artistic Excellence, Diversity

By Allyse Heartwell

"It's sad but true that in the Bay Area you're generally in an extremely diverse part of the country – except when you're in a big theater," Tony Kelly of Thick Description observed recently. Luckily Kelly's lament doesn't hold true for the small companies and theatre venues located in Southeast San Francisco, particularly Potrero Hill. Here first-rate theater and cultural diversity go hand-in-hand.

Founded in 1973 as an American Conservatory Theater-sponsored playwriting workshop, the Asian American Theater Company (AATC) has staged more than one hundred plays. AATC's performances explore the distinct perspective of Asian Pacific Islander Americans, a voice that's otherwise underrepresented in mainstream theater. AATC's plays tend to have a political flavor, and the company emphasizes new works: the majority of their plays are original world premieres, including 2005's

*Banyan* by Jeannie Barroga and *Sleeper: A Chronicle of the Return of the Remarkable* by Samantha Chanse. As AATC Artistic Director Sean Lim reflected, "To change things you have to start with the writing."

Z-Space Studios, which maintains administrative and rehearsal space on 10th Street in the South of Market district, also emphasizes "new voices, new works, and new opportunities," according to their website. The studio commissions, develops and

Continued on Page 11



# Publisher's View: The Power of Pens

By Steven J. Moss

One of my dominant childhood memories is of my father's constant quest to get something for nothing. He'd pile my three sisters, my mom and me into our station wagon and troll the streets for shopping center and bank openings offering free cookies, balloons, and plastic key chains. I'd eaten hundreds of those flower-shaped shortbread cookies with cherry-flavored jelly in the middle – the kind you only find at low-end receptions or bakery outlet stores – by the time I was ten.

My father's pursuits have been made possible by the incredible bounty of free things our society spits out. Every minute of every day, somewhere in the United States, someone is giving away a complimentary cup, flashlight, calendar, or food item at a conference, "grand opening," or street festival. For awhile I followed in my father's footsteps, compulsively elbowing my way to the table of free snacks at Costco or Trader Joes, downing foul-tasting samples of new beverages simply because they were gratis. At one point I had two shoe boxes packed full of tiny bottles of lotions, shampoos, and conditioners collected from various hotels I'd stayed at.

My wife put an end to my inherited hobby, by insisting I unload my boxes of potions and lotions, or at least get them out of the house. I resisted at first, but then decided to distribute my collection during my travels to less-wealthy countries. Whenever someone on the street asked me for money in Peru or India, I handed them a bottle of liquid soap. I'd usually get a smile in exchange, though one Nepalese woman demanded what use conditioner would be to her.

Recently I've been traveling to Niger, the planet's poorest country. I asked my father if he could give me some of the pens he'd been collecting to give-away, a request he took as a challenge to re-double his efforts to score freebies.

Each afternoon in Niamey, Niger's capital city, after a late-lunch of take-out food eaten in my room, I'd take a stroll around the hotel, carrying a Walgreen's canvas bag of logoed pens collected by my father over a lifetime – I recognized a pen that I'd seen as a child, carrying the name of a bank that no longer exists – and a few Halloween candies stolen from my daughter, Sara's, stash. The pens were soaked up like water in the desert: shop keepers, children, and beggars of all stripes were delighted to receive them. One 20-something woman in a cycle wheel chair, with baby strapped to her back and young

girl at her side, chased me half-way down the hotel's entry-boulevard, only to beam a thousand-watt smile after receiving two plastic pens.

Everyone was happy with the pen distribution; everyone, but the street boys. These urchins, who ranged in age from perhaps seven to 10, complained if their pen was too plain, and always aggressively demanded more "bics."

One afternoon I packed my bag as usual, and headed into the dusty streets. I was quickly approached by one of the more dogged boys, who'd glued himself to my side a few days previously in an attempt to score multiple pens. This time I quickly gave him a pen and a tootsie roll; after which I was immediately swarmed by a dozen boys, most dressed in rags, jumping, grabbing, yelling for pens. I tried passing them out, but soon I was overwhelmed, said "enough," and walked away.

Followed, of course, by three of the boys, "Can I have a pen? Give me a pen? Can I have a pen? I didn't get a pen," the most aggressive pen worshiper chanted. "Just us three need a pen; we didn't get a pen," he repeated, even after one of his friends mistakenly flashed two of the pens he'd received a few moments ago. "No," I responded, "it is finished." I ducked into a pharmacy. They were there when I left. I walked into a crowded street market, hoping they wouldn't follow me. But they did. "Can I have a pen? Give me a pen? Can I have a pen? I didn't get a pen."

Finally, I could take it no more. I spotted a man, sitting in an empty market stall, fingering his prayer beads. I motioned him over to me. "Here," I said, and emptied the entire contents of the bag into his willing hands – perhaps two dozen pens of various designs, along with an equal number of candies. He looked like he'd just received a handful of gold, and thanked me profusely. I dramatically shook out the bag, indicating it was completely empty, and walked away. The boys did not follow.

I felt liberated, ecstatic, and, guilty all at once. What lesson had I taught them? That they should be polite? That the penniless children weren't worth a few extra pens? And the man with the prayer beads, my own personal marabou, what of him?

I walked back to the hotel, exhausted. I lay down on the flimsy foam mattress. As I closed my eyes I saw them, there, next to my suitcase: more pens, dozens more pens.

# Editorial

## Starr King Elementary School Proved Us Wrong

By Joan Wong and Michael Kure

We'd always planned on enrolling our daughter in a private school when she was ready to enter kindergarten. Because the media continuously paints a dismal portrait of the state of public schools – low reading and math scores; over-crowded and poorly maintained buildings; graduating students who are ill-prepared for the rigors of a post-secondary education – we felt we had no choice. Based on everything we'd heard, we figured the City's public school system had nothing to offer. We were sure that a private school education was the only source of a quality education.


We were wrong: thanks to the talented faculty and staff at Starr King Elementary School, we learned that public schools can delivery an excellent education.

We decided to visit Starr King because we were interested in the Mandarin Immersion Program. Although we knew little about the school besides the fact that test scores were rising every year, we didn't expect that we'd find much to like about Starr King. But when we toured the school we were surprised by what we saw and experienced. We were immediately impressed by the warm and friendly environment, which was quite a contrast to some of the other schools we'd visited. Adults we passed in the halls greeted us with a smile and a "hello." The building itself was not only well-maintained, it was also clean and bright, the walls trimmed with colorful student-decorated tiles and art work. In the classrooms, where we'd expected to see unruly children running around and teachers struggling to maintain order, we instead saw energetic and enthusiastic teachers and children learning.

As we toured the school, we were impressed by the palpable sense of community, acceptance, and respect. We saw the adults greet all students, from kindergarten to fifth grade, by name, creating a sense of belonging. We liked how students in the general education program, the Spanish Bilingual program, and the autism-specific special day program played, ate, and celebrated together. We heard teachers speak politely to their students, and we saw students being reprimanded when rude. We saw students' achievements recognized, and we watched as the principal, Chris Rosenberg, thanked parents for their role in helping their children learn. We were especially impressed to hear Mr. Rosenberg speak supportively and respectfully of his staff, acknowledging their skillful teaching. We saw at Starr King a strong foundation for learning. We knew our daughter would thrive in this setting. This is the school we had been looking for – right here in Potrero Hill.

If you think you know that the City's public schools have nothing to offer, we suggest that you reconsider. Come visit Starr King Elementary School. Everyday Starr King's faculty and staff prove to us how wrong we were to assume that a public school cannot offer a quality education. And we were so glad to have been proven wrong.

Joan Wong teaches in the English Department at San Francisco State University. Michael Kure works as an editor in the Marketing Oepartment at Hitachi. Their daughter is in kindergarten in the newly established Mandarin Immersion Program at Starr King Elementary School, ([www.starrkingsschool.org](http://www.starrkingsschool.org)), which is located at 1215 Carolina Street. Call 415.695.5797 for a school tour.



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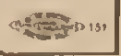
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232S Third Street, Suite 344, San Francisco, California 94107.  
Better yet, email [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net).  
Please include a telephone number. Thanks!



# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Your newspaper is great! Everyone on the Hill reads you! Bravo!

Potrero Hill has become filthy-trash everywhere. Dog poop is every couple of feet. McKinley Square is full of dog poo that no one picks up.

People at restaurants on sidewalks don't let baby carriages pass. Dogs seem to have the right of way.

Noise, noise, noise!

Cars honking by baby buggies-pretty rude.

What has happened to our lovely hill? No one has manners anymore!

The Nannies & Grannies

*The Potrero View* welcomes your letters and opinions. editor@potreroview.net

## UCSF Cont. from Page 1

located throughout the City.

The CAG's members work in conjunction with UCSF planners to assess campus space needs and identify expansion opportunities. The CAG has five sub-committees, called CAG Action Teams: Community Partnerships, Hospital Replacement, Mission Bay, Mount Zion, and Parnassus. The CAG's members are appointed by the UCSF Chancellor for varying lengths of time; UCSF works to maintain a diversity of interests and representatives from each of the affected neighborhoods.

Sunset District native and president of the Inner Sunset Merchants Association Craig Dawson has been a member of the UCSF, Parnassus CAG Action Team since 1992. Dawson believes that effective watchdog groups are essential to ensuring that the communities surrounding campuses are effectively served by the university. "It takes a certain amount of public pressure from the people, including our presence at university meetings, for our voice to be heard," says Dawson.

Dawson has worked to change UCSF's expansion plans in the Parnassus neighborhood. He cites the space ceiling agreed upon by the community and the university more than 10 years ago as an example of how the neighborhood and UCSF worked together to hammer out a compromise. As part of the 1996 Long Range Development Plan, UCSF identified a total space limit of approximately 3.34 million gross square feet at the Parnassus campus. To remain within this ceiling the university repairs and replaces outmoded buildings to extend their life or to make them more efficient. And available building sites are carefully evaluated for their "fit," and modified as needed.

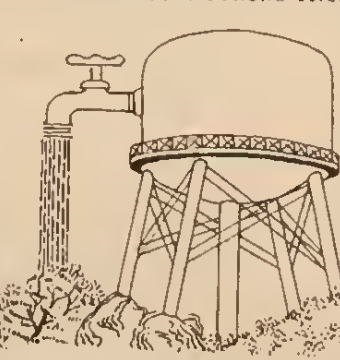
For example, UCSF recently collapsed two of its existed buildings located at Irving Street and Third Avenue into a single, more usable, site for student housing, in part as a result of public concerns that UCSF maintain the existing residential

scale, density, and character of the Parnassus Heights neighborhood. The university also hopes that the building's tenants, as well as nearby residents, will take advantage of the CarShare program, which has placed several vehicles at UCSF's public parking garage next door, as a means of lowering the number of additional cars in the neighborhood, which is already tight on parking. Likewise, the university agreed to renovate some houses on Fifth Avenue rather than demolish and rebuild them at slightly higher densities, thereby reducing traffic, parking and noise impacts.

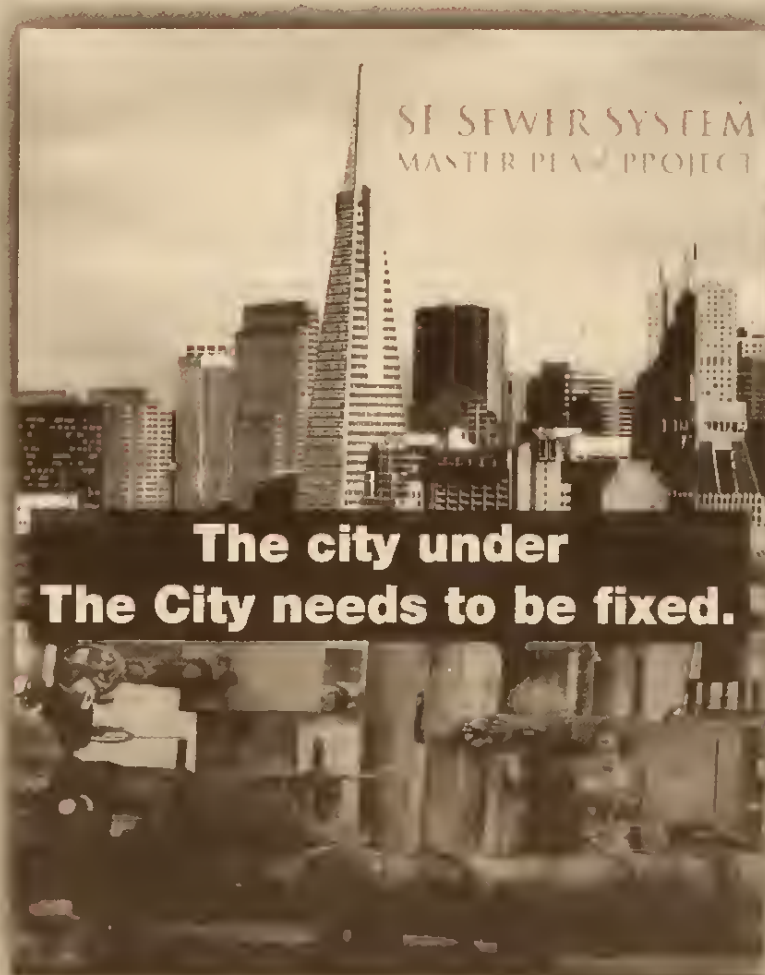
"The university bought the building at 3rd and Irving during a phase of expansion," says Dawson, "and the fact that they're transforming it into housing for residents is something that the CAG wanted to see. Although UCSF has

Continued on Page 21

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**Saturday, January 27**  
10 am to noon  
Southeast Community Facility  
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## SF Power Needs Your Help!

Babcock and Brown has proposed a \$300 million+ electricity "extension cord" from the City of Pittsburg's fossil fuel plants to the Dogpatch neighborhood. The project isn't needed, would disturb the Bay's eco-system, and, if approved, would take-up almost four acres of space at the Central Water Front. We need volunteers who are willing to attend one or more regulatory or legislative meetings and educate policymakers about our neighborhood. Learn about the policymaking process, help out your community, and contribute to creating a greener world. Contact Steven Moss for information, 415.626.8723; [steven@moss.net](mailto:steven@moss.net).

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### TWO MEETINGS IN JANUARY

*Subject:* Making Potrero Hill a More Affordable and Healthy Neighborhood

**Tuesday, January 16, 6.30 pm – 9 pm**  
**AND**

**Saturday, January 27, 9.30 am – Noon**

**Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro at Southern Heights**

Much more info at **[planpotrerohillsf.org](http://planpotrerohillsf.org)**

the **YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD** series is organized by the Thick House with the Potrero Boosters, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Coalition to Save Potrero Hill and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House



# Air Quality Data Suggests that for Some Bay Area Residents It's Not Safe to Inhale

By Hallie Gardner

Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

Data recently released by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) reaffirms what many low-income Bay Area residents have observed first hand: growing up poor means that you're far more likely to be raised in an unhealthy environment. Toxic air contaminants, which pose a number of severe health ramifications, have high concentrations in the region's low-income communities.

According to BAAQMD, air toxins which cause the most adverse health impacts are concentrated near heavy industrial activity, freeways and airports – the same neighborhoods in which low-income communities tend to be located. Diesel particulate matter, largely from heavy duty trucks and construction equipment, accounts for 80 percent of the elevated cancer risk associated with airborne toxins in the Bay Area. The largest contributor to non-cancer related health risks is acrolein, a chemical produced by fossil fuel combustion from automobiles and airplanes.

A wide array of health problems have been linked to exposure to these air toxins, including lung cancer, asthma, premature birth, infant mortality and increased cardiovascular hospitalizations. Children and the elderly are the most susceptible to air pollution's effects.

Many of the conditions that BAAQMD identified as being conducive to serious health problems are concentrated in Bayview-Hunters Point – as well as the adjacent Dogpatch and Potrero Hill neighborhoods – a predominantly low-income and minority neighborhood located in the

southeast corner of San Francisco. Bayview-Hunters Point, Dogpatch and Potrero Hill have been burdened with an abundance of air pollution sources, including San Francisco's largest wastewater treatment facility, federal and state Superfund sites, a major power plant, hazardous waste storage facilities and hundreds of toxic sites. The communities are also transected by two major freeways: 101 and 280.

Bayview-Hunters Point has

the highest rate of asthma-related hospitalizations in San Francisco, with one in six children in the community suffering from the disease. Residents' hospitalization rates for emphysema, congestive heart failure and hypertension are three times the statewide average. And infant mortality rates are the highest in California.

Marie Harrison, a long-time Bayview-Hunters Point resident, has two grandsons who have been

chronically ill as a result of respiratory ailments. "Sometimes my grandson would come home from school and could barely breathe," Harrison said. After numerous nights at the hospital for her grandsons' asthma attacks and mornings changing nosebleed-soaked pillows, she noticed that she wasn't alone. Many of her neighbors were suffering from serious respiratory ailments too.

Harrison believes that poor air

Continued on Page 18

## New Water Tower



A new water tower, surrounded by a green-colored iron fence, is being constructed at Wisconsin and 22nd streets. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

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# Trauma Recovery Center in it for the Long Term

By Gina Poggi

Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

When a patient doesn't show up for a counseling session at the Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) it's not unusual for staff members to search them out at a Tenderloin hotel, homeless camp or other non-traditional home. This assertive approach has helped the Center identify and treat more than 4,800 mostly low-income victims of violent crime since it opened in 2001.

The TRC is a nationally-recognized program that helps violent crime victims by providing free services ranging from medical and mental health support, safe housing in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault, help filing police reports and communicating with the District Attorney's office.

The TRC has treated victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, shootings and stabbings, as well as family members of homicide victims. Many of the Center's clients are poor, uninsured, live in high-crime neighborhoods and have suffered an average of five other serious traumatic events in their life. Homeless women experience repeated sexual assaults, children witness multiple instances of domestic violence, and those with

mental health issues are frequently robbed and/or physically assaulted.

"One of the things that distinguishes this Center is that we're really focused on public sector patients," said its founder, Dr. Alicia Boccari, director of the Division of Psychosocial Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital. "We're focused on practical needs and we're the first in the country to also do research on this population in terms of what does it take to heal from cumulative trauma."

The TRC takes a proactive approach to finding and treating its patients. Center staff perform "sweeps" of San Francisco General Hospital's emergency room looking for crime victims, visit patients at bedside while they recover from physical injuries in the hospital, offer practical help, and establish relationships with their clients that frequently lead to much-needed mental health treatment.

The Center's staff consists of social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and outreach workers, who are referred to as "trackers" — trained non-clinical people who go into homeless encampments to find crime victims and encourage them to get treatment.

Continued on Page 20

# WHO ARE THE BOOSTERS?

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is dedicated to important issues for the communities of Potrero Hill. Our goals are to act as a forum for concerned Potrero residents, and to participate in policy and development decisions that affect the Hill's quality of life.

**MEETINGS** are the last Tuesday of the month (7:00 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House) and are open to everyone, members and non-members.

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# Downtown High School Students Learn To Build A Boat (and to Sail It)

By Sally Taylor

At the Sea Scouts building on the edge of Aquatic Park, a dozen teenagers are crowded around a 10-foot-long sailboat in progress. They are building it from scratch. One of them, Roxxana Flores, is inside the boat wielding a heat gun that looks like a hair dryer, but produces 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. If she isn't careful she'll burn the wood structure, or a fellow student, or herself. But she's paying attention.

Flores warms the brittle epoxy glue that has seeped out of the boat's rib seams. Just enough heat and the glue will adequately soften so that Deonte Athens can scrape it away. Flores and Athens work as a team, carefully creating the necessary clean edges inside the boat to fit the deck ribs tightly.

Two other teams -- David Ngo and Wilson Wong; Jamal Stitt and Laura Villagomez -- fit and cut the complex angle of two exterior deck beams using tape measures and Japanese hand saws. They made each beam from three sheets of marine plywood, bent on a form and epoxied. Later in the day they'll begin screwing the beams in place.

It's exacting work. The width of a nickel is too big a gap. And most of these students have never had a wood shop class. In fact, many of them are high school drop-outs. John Heid, Aquatic Park's resident boat builder, and his assistant Jesse Furrows guide the students through the myriad steps to create a sea-worthy craft. "The majority of these students have never had a shop class," Heid said. "And it really shows, the few that have had experience with tools. But we can see the skills developing and I try to encourage that. I try to use hand tools as much as possible, as it teaches you more about the materials you are working with, and develops manual dexterity."

Flores, Athens, Ngo and Wong are students at Potrero Hill's unique Downtown High School, located at Vermont and 19th streets. Downtown gives a second chance to under-performing students, offering project-based learning, such as boat building, for credit. Downtown's



Downtown High School students learn how to build a boat.

Photo by Ed Cavanaugh

students study for the high school equivalency exam, and at the same time learn essential job skills.

"In addition to all the team-building skills, there is practical math and physics involved in building a boat," Ed Cavanaugh, their teacher, explains. "And they have a daily journal to write."

The boat building initiative is the last of four outdoor projects undertaken by 20 Downtown students enrolled in Cavanaugh's "Get Out and Learn" course. The semester kicked-off with a 10-day wilderness camping trip, preceded by two weeks of planning. The students learned how to read topography maps and compasses, as well as first aid skills.

The students then joined the Golden Gate National Recreational Area Stewardship Program -- learning about native habitats -- followed by a Fort Miley Adventure Ropes Course, which included training on how to become course facilitators.

"Get Out & Learn" is a project of the Tides Center, a nonprofit organization located in the Presidio. While Cavanaugh's salary is paid by the San Francisco Unified School District, he raises the funds for the activities from foundation grants and private donations. "For the Ropes Course," Cavanaugh explained, "The partner was the Pacific Leadership Institute. The students are trained to facilitate courses for corporate groups, school groups, and so forth.

So the students receive valuable leadership skills and frequent opportunities to apply them."

The boat building project received support from the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Park Program Manager M.J. Harris says that a portion of the costs for staff and materials will be paid for by selling the boat the students are building. "We hope to expand this program to other high schools,

Continued on Page 19

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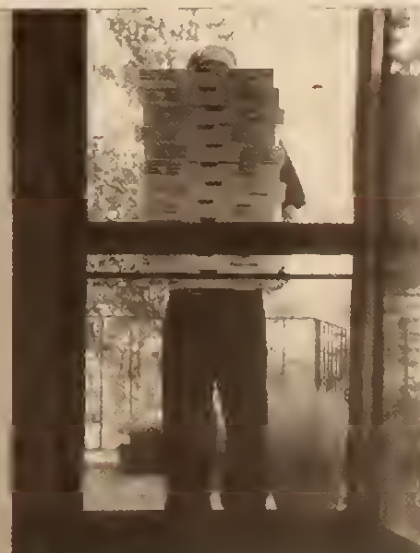
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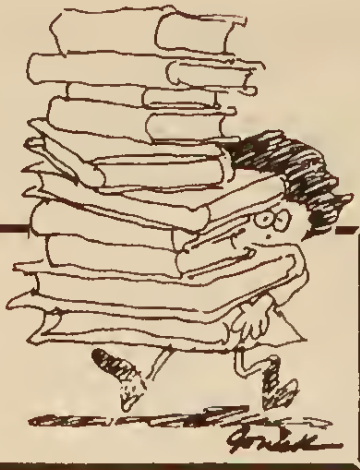


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 Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
 Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
 Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



Jensa Woo, Potrero Branch Library Manager

#### COMPUTER RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

People ask us about using the Internet. We get questions such as, "How do I get onto the Internet?" or "How do I do e-mail?" While our branch staff can give brief on-ramp computer assistance in getting on to the Internet, the Main Library (located at 100 Larkin Street at Grove in Civic Center) offers free classes that cover various aspects of the Internet, ranging from using the library's online catalog and databases to using the Internet for subject searches or e-mail. Classes are conducted at the Main Library, are either hands-on training or lecture style, and generally are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The training schedules are printed each month and available for pick-up at all library locations and also are published in each monthly issue of *At the Library*. For further information, please call 415.557.4400 or check our website at [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) (click on "Classes"). Note: basic computer keyboard and mouse skills are required for all sessions. If you have never used a keyboard or mouse, the Main Library has volunteers available to help acquaint you with the basic skills; contact Volunteer Services at 415.557.4280 for information and a schedule of practice times.

#### AND OTHER RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

Here at Potrero Branch, we subscribe to over 90 magazine and newspaper titles! Stop by the library to peruse the latest (or back) issues. While you're here, take a look at the educational CD-ROM sets in the children's section — these can be borrowed and used on your family's home computer.

#### CAN YOU HELP US?

We are in need of one or two volunteers to help us transport on a regular basis donated materials to the Friends of the Library's Book Bay location at Fort Mason. If you are available to help us in this way, please contact me at 415.355.2855.

#### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN JANUARY

Come and join us as we welcome in the Year of the Boar (lunar year 4705) with the Chinese Lion Dance on Saturday, January 13 at 3 p.m. For children of all ages. This program is made possible by funding from the Friends of the Library.

There are also other programs for children throughout the month:

- Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, January 4, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.
- Evening storytimes on Tuesday, January 2, 23, and 30 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 to 7 years old.
- Evening films on Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m. Scheduled to be shown are *The Snowy Day*, *The Beast of Monsieur Racine*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*. For ages 3 and older.

Please note: All library programs are free. Meeting room is not accessible by elevator. Groups, please call in advance for reservations.

# Library to be Renovated

By Harry J. Johnson

This spring the Potrero Hill Library will close for renovation, reopening in early-2009.

"We are recommending locals use other branches during the closure," said branch manager Jensa Woo, "specifically the new Mission Bay branch at 4th Street and Berry. The children's programs will continue in local neighborhood centers. We will also be setting up bookmobile service with a regular location and hours."

The Potrero Hill Library, San Francisco's third branch, opened in 1888. The existing building dates from 1951. Woo said the renovation will make the library seismically safe, and fully accessible to disabled persons, including restrooms, stairs and an elevator. Responding to community requests, she added, a new meeting room will be available for neighborhood groups and clubs.

"There will be an expanded second floor and a new designated teen area," she said. "The design will maximize use of natural light, including a new atrium and skylight. We will have new furniture, with comfortable seating options for quiet reading and studying. New computers will also be added as well as wireless Internet access."

Other benefits of the renovation include an enlarged second floor with views of the City, a children's area, new furniture, shelving and displays,

greater access to library online resources, an improved heating system, natural ventilation and more space for public art.

The Potrero Hill branch has a history of supporting the arts. "What's distinctive about our branch is the annual art show, which was started in 1955 by concerned citizens," said Woo. "We have it in the spring, normally, but there will be no show this year because of the closure."

Although the Potrero Hill branch will be closed for nearly two years, no jobs will be lost. "All of library staff will be reassigned, no one will be laid off," said Woo. "For some it may be working on the bookmobile. I will continue to work with the children's program in local neighborhood centers. We have received a lot of comments from neighborhood folks about how they will miss the library. But the renovation will put the library in a better place to serve the community. The staff will miss the library, too!"

To help celebrate the reopening in 2009, Gina Telcocci, a sculptor from Oakland, will create a new work for the branch. Telcocci works with plants and other natural materials to create organic sculptural forms. She received the commission by winning an art competition that was juried by a neighborhood artist selection panel.

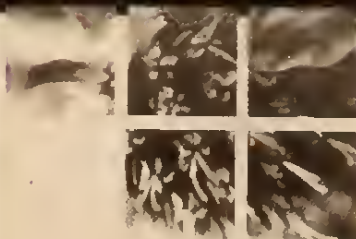


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## The Buzz on Bio-identical Hormones

By Erika Horowitz, ND

Lately, there's been a lot of media attention on bio-identical, or natural, hormone therapy to relieve menopause symptoms -- such as hot flashes, insomnia, and depression -- that are common in women of a certain age. Since a 2002 National Institutes of Health (NIH) study found a linkage between conventional hormone replacement therapy (HRT) -- which is prescribed to millions of American women -- and cancer, dementia, and other serious ailments, women are increasingly turning to natural hormones as a potentially less risky way of treating menopause symptoms.

Hormones are potent substances; it takes only a small amount of a given hormone to initiate an action, such as growth, development, or mental functions. Only cells that are sensitive to a specific hormone, called the target tissue, will respond to that hormone's particular chemical signal. Traveling through the blood, hormones enter cells through receptor sites, much as a key unlocks a door. Only the right hormone key fits the receptor lock to initiate the cellular functions it regulates.

Natural, or bio-identical, hormones are bio-chemically and molecularly identical to a human hormone. Bio-identical hormones

can be made from a variety of plants, including soybeans and Mexican wild yams. Through enzymatic reactions created in the manufacturing process, a hormone is made, such as the estrogens estradiol, estrone, estriol.

Bio-identical hormones function exactly like those that the body produces. The molecular structure, the key, is indistinguishable from the body's natural hormones, so it's identical to the hormones it's intended to replace and therefore, fits the "lock."

Synthetic hormones are intentionally different than natural hormones. Because drug companies can't patent a natural substance, they synthetically produce hormones that are slightly different; Premarin, Prempro and Provera are the most widely used examples of conventional hormones. A synthetic hormone, like a non-identical key, doesn't exactly match the body's natural hormone structure. However, it's similar enough that the receptor site recognizes part of it: it can't open the door exactly the same way as a natural hormone, but it can jimmy the lock, so to speak. Likewise, by-products of synthetic hormones may linger in the body longer, having a negative affect on receptor sites and possibly contributing to adverse side

Continued on Page 9

## ANNOUNCING

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# KIDS CLASSES AT 3RD STREET BOXING GYM

Boxing, also known as the Western martial art and the Sweet Science, is alive and well at Potrero Hill's 3rd Street Boxing Gym.

Owners Simon and Paul, both Potrero Hill residents and SF Golden Glove Champions, opened the gym in September 2003 with the goal of offering a boxer's workout to the masses. The exciting, energetic and dynamic classes they developed incorporate yoga, pilates and calisthenics and have earned them national attention on CNN who dubbed them "the new breed of gym".

Now going into their 4th year of business, they are happy to announce the launch of their much anticipated Kids Boxing Program.



JARED MILLER, 10 YEARS OLD.



ANTWAIN BARKER, 14 YEARS OLD.

For age 7 and up, the Program aims to teach boxing fundamentals, improve self confidence and coordination, as well as promote teamwork, discipline and respect for fellow students and teachers. The energy in the gym is impassioned, energetic and very positive.

**KIDS BOXING PROGRAM**  
MON - FRI, 3-5pm  
\$80/month

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MON - FRI, 5:45pm & 6:45pm  
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Check out [www.thirdstreetgym.com](http://www.thirdstreetgym.com), call 415.550.UBOX (8269) or visit 2576 Thlrd.Street (cross 22nd Street).

If you want to get in shape, lose weight or just hit stuff...come check out the new breed of gym.



## Hormone Buzz Continued

from Page 8

effects. The small but important mis-match between synthetic and natural hormones may be the cause of some or all of conventional HRT's side effects.


Are bio-identical hormones better than synthetic hormones?

Many doctors believe that bio-identical hormones are an effective and potentially safer alternative to conventional HRT drugs because they're taken from natural sources and synthesized into identical human hormones. These doctors believe that when bio-identical hormones enter the blood stream they interact with the body's cells in exactly the same fashion as our own hormones do. As a result, natural hormones are often better tolerated than their synthetic counterparts, with fewer side effects reported. European medical studies suggest that bio-identical hormones are safer than synthetic versions. But that doesn't mean that bio-identical hormones are perfect. Natural hormones have yet to be fully examined, especially for long-term use, and the NIH studies on the effectiveness and health risks associated with HRT only focused on synthetic hormones.

The decision to use hormone replacement should only be made after the risks and benefits have been fully weighed. The great majority of women can rebalance their hormones without the use of HRT, natural or synthetic. Most women can find


relief from common menopause symptoms through a combination of diet, exercise, lifestyle and stress management, as well as high quality nutritional supplements, herbs and acupuncture. If hormones are necessary, bio-identical hormones, used for the shortest time possible, may be ideal, preferably in a compounded form personalized to each woman's needs.

Dr. Horowitz is a licensed naturopathic doctor at the SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic. For more information about this topic, contact SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic at 415.643.6600 or go to [www.SOMAacupuncture.com](http://www.SOMAacupuncture.com).



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## GETTING INVOLVED

**Downtown High School** sponsors a meeting with Principal Richard A. Maggi the first Friday of each month at the school. For information contact Babette Drefke, 415. 282.5919. Next meeting: **January 5**, on Vermont St. between 18th and 19th streets in Room One, from 10 to 11 a.m.

**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is Tuesday, **February 13**, at Sundance Coffee on 3rd Street at 20<sup>th</sup> Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Potrero Boosters** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 415.341.8040 or [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: **January 30**, 7 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohillbiz.com](http://www.potrerohillbiz.com) or call 415.341.8949. Next meeting: **January**, 10 a.m.

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 415.648.6740 for details. Next meeting: **January 28**.

**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **January 2**, 7 p.m.

**Starr King Openspace Board of Directors** meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. **Volunteer for the Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 415.819.4900. Next meeting: **January 16**. Next Volunteer Day: **January 20**.

## New Year's resolution spiritual growth? Join us at St. John's!

### Sundays

10:00 AM Godly Play  
(Children ages 3-10)  
11:00 AM Choral Eucharist  
(With childcare)

### Wednesdays

6:00 PM Spoken Eucharist  
7:00 PM Quiet Prayer Group

### Newcomers' Group

Thurs., Jan. 11 – Feb. 1, 7 PM  
Please call Fr. John to RSVP.



### Inquiring Minds:

Exploring the Intersections between  
Christianity and Culture

A new series on Sundays, 6:00 PM, beginning in February  
**Sunday, Feb. 4 and March 4**

Reading and discussion of *Evolution and Christian Faith: Reflections of an Evolutionary Biologist* with author Joon Roughgarden, professor of biological sciences and geophysics, Stanford University.

**Sunday, April 1**

The Bible and Human Sexuality (Guest leader TBA).

### Christian Meditation and Chant

Thursdays, 7:00 PM., beginning in March.



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St. John's is an LGBTQ- and family- welcoming parish.

## View on Pets: Tasty Treats for Furry Creatures

By Virginia Donohue

San Francisco is awash with great independent pet stores that carry all sorts of delicious treats for dogs. They look beautiful, taste great and are usually fairly priced considering the labor and ingredients involved. However, if you want to whip-up your own snack for the four-legged creature in your life, here's some recipes we've gathered, tested, and amended to make preparation easy. No matter what you create make sure your ingredients are pet-friendly. Remember, no chocolate! For dogs it's a killer.

This is my personal favorite. It's easy, inexpensive and unusual. Commercial frozen yogurts are available, but the popular brand we tried had a list of ingredients that you need a degree in chemistry to decipher. We tried these on three dogs – two loved them, One had trouble getting the hang of eating the chilly concoction.

### Frozen Treats

#### Ingredients:

1 quart plain or vanilla yogurt  
1 large jar of baby banana food  
2 tablespoons peanut butter  
2 tablespoons honey  
3-oz. bathroom paper cups

Mix all ingredients until well blended. Pour into paper cups or into ice cube trays or mini-muffin tins. Freeze for at least three hours. If you're using the paper cups you'll need to cut them off; with the trays or tins you can carefully dip the bottoms in warm water to pop the treats out. After the treats are removed, you can store them in the freezer in a plastic bag. Makes 12 three-ounce treats.

### Peanut Butter Biscuits

#### Ingredients:

1 cup flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese  
1 egg slightly beaten  
1/2 cup milk

1 tablespoon chicken broth  
2 tablespoons peanut butter  
Blend flour and baking powder. Add cheese. In a separate bowl combine beaten egg, milk and broth until well blended. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry and mix well. Add the peanut butter last. Mix well. Drop by the tablespoon onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 minutes until golden brown. Cool.

I found these dry and bland but the dogs and my six-year-old son loved them. Makes two dozen.

### Cheesie Bites

#### Ingredients:

1 cup wheat flour  
1 cup grated cheddar or parmesan cheese  
1 tablespoon soft butter or margarine  
1/2 cup milk

#### Frosting:

12 ounces nonfat cream cheese  
2 teaspoons honey

Mix flour and cheese together. Add softened butter or margarine. Gradually add the milk until the dough forms. Knead on a floured board for a few minutes. It will be easier to roll the dough if you form it into a disk, wrap it in wax paper and chill it in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Roll out into 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into shapes and place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Let cool in the oven with the door slightly open until firm. Makes one dozen. These are much more labor-intensive than the other recipes, but they look great even without the frosting.

For the frosting, bring the cream cheese to room temperature and then beat in the honey until fluffy. If you frost them, they must be refrigerated.

If your event calls for something more elaborate than water, there's now beer for dogs brewed in Napa! Happy Tail Ale, a non-alcoholic, non-carbonated beer for dogs is beef-flavored and spiked with glucosamine and vitamin E. In the City, it can be found at George, 2411 California Street, and Pet Camp, 525 Phelps Street.



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## Local Theater Cont.

from Page 1

produces original work, while also acting as a space for theatrical artistic development that's more focused on process than product. Z-Space's productions are staged at a number of venues, including Thick House and Project Artaud.

Named after visionary French playwright and philosopher Antonin Artaud, Project Artaud is a cooperatively-managed nonprofit located on Alabama Street that houses more than 70 artists from a range of disciplines. It's also home to no less than four public theaters – Project Artaud Theater, Traveling Jewish Theater, Theater of Yugen, and Studio 300.

Project Artaud Theater was managed by a separate organization, Theater Artaud, until it closed due to financial difficulties in 2002. It now continues as a performance venue under the umbrella of the larger Project Artaud.

Traveling Jewish Theater (TJT) does travel – periodically nationally and internationally, and annually throughout the Bay Area – but Project Artaud has functioned as its home base since 1994. The group focuses on Jewish history, experience and identity, with the aim of creating a “vital, creative and inclusive Jewish culture and to serve as a bridge to other cultures,” according to their website. Through theater, TJT seeks to accomplish the Jewish vision of *tikkun olam*: repairing or healing the world. “Our cultural context comes out of three thousand years

of storytelling,” explained Artistic Director Aaron Davidman, “There's a ritual aspect to the work that we do, in which the audience is intimately involved.”

Theater of Yugen is one of the country's only theaters that focuses on traditional Japanese aesthetics. The company produces mostly original works, as well as traditional *Noh* and *Kyogen* plays presented in translation. *Noh* is a highly stylized, musical dramatic form, which is typically solemn in tone and subject matter. The closely-related *Kyogen* style emerged as a sort of comic intermission between *Noh* plays. But as Administrative Director Edward Schocker remarked, “Even the comedies are dark. A lot of *Kyogen* deals with people's selfishness and finds the humor there.” This sensibility is befitting of the company's name and aesthetic: *yugen* means darkness and subtlety.

Thick Description's Thick House venue on 18th Street in Potrero Hill also acts as an incubator and staging ground for new works and a number of small companies, including Killing My Lobster, Encore Theater Company, and Golden Thread Productions.

Golden Thread Productions was founded in 1996 in response to what Artistic Director Torange Yeghiazarian saw as the inadequate representation of Middle Eastern people and perspectives in Bay Area theatre. In the context of deepening cultural misunderstanding since September 11, Golden Thread Productions seeks to replace Arabic stereotypes with real faces through



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theater's emotionally energizing media. “It's immediate, live,” said Yeghiazarian, “and it creates opportunities for artists and audiences to come together in a way that's not possible in other art forms.”

Of course it wouldn't be true cultural diversity – or San Francisco for that matter – without LGBTQ theater. Theatre Rhinoceros has been producing plays that reflect the queer community for nearly three decades. The country's oldest gay theater company, Theatre Rhinoceros staged its first production in a South of Market leather bar in 1977. After a series of growth spurts, the company landed in its current Mission District

venue on 16th Street, where it continues to pack its season with productions that explore the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of the queer community.

Politics and theater are closely linked, and many of San Francisco's small companies that cater or explore cultural or ethnic niches do so with an overt political agenda. But as Kelly pointed out, “It's also a straight up argument for quality. The bigger an artistic pool you're drawing from then the better your results are going to be.” Diverse theater is good theater – and around Potrero Hill it's as good as it gets.

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Phone: 415.255.2320

Continued on Page 14



# JANUARY ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## January 3

### Theater: Luma

A Holiday Fantasy for All Ages elevates the child-like pleasure of playing with light in the dark into an astonishing, one-of-a-kind light show. Dazzling images tell stories, conjure surreal worlds, and spin a visual magic that evokes awe and wonder. January 3 through 19, Wed. through Sat. 8 p.m. Matinees at 2 p.m. on Sat. and Sun. Matinees \$20 General Admission/ \$5 Children 12 and under. Eve \$30 General Admission/ \$25 Students & Seniors/ \$15 Children 12 and under. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th Street. More info at [lumatheater.com](http://lumatheater.com).

## January 4

### Theater: Rose

A tour-de-force solo play by Marin Sherman (famous for Bent and more recently the screenwriter of Mrs. Henderson Presents) tells the story of an 80-year-old immigrant and her fascinating and surprising life. Naomi Newman plays the title role January 4 to February 25. Traveling Jewish Theater, 470 Florida Street, [www.atjt.com](http://www.atjt.com).

### Art:Exhibition and Opening

First Exposures: Developing History.

SF Camerawork's mentoring program for at-risk youth, celebrates its 10th anniversary with a retrospective based on the recently published book titled First Exposures. Features work by 16 Bay Area students who worked on the book in 2006 as well as archival images from the program's rich past. Opening reception January 4, 5 to 8 p.m. The exhibit runs through February 24, Tues. through Sat. 12 to 5 p.m. 657 Mission Street, 2nd Floor 415.512.2020, [www.sfcamerawork.org](http://www.sfcamerawork.org)

## January 6

### Kids: Marsh Mud

Use microscopes and more to get up close and personal with the critters that live in the mud. 10 a.m. to noon. \$8 per person. All ages welcome (children six and younger must be supervised). Phone 415.561.7752 to make arrangements. Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. Online at [www.crissyfield.org/center](http://www.crissyfield.org/center).

## January 7

### Kids: Family Day

City Attractions Open Doors to SF Families Mayor Gavin Newsom invites San Francisco families with children to the second annual Family Appreciation Day. For one day,

every San Francisco family with children up to 18 years old receives free entrance to 35 museums and attractions. One adult in each family must show proof they live in San Francisco and be accompanied by at least one child. Kids ride free on MUNI when accompanied by a paying adult. Find event details at [www.dcyf.org](http://www.dcyf.org)

## January 10

### Community:

#### Mission Bay CAG Action Team

A meeting of the sub-committee of the UCSF Community Advisory Group will focus on the revised plan for screening the preliminary utility plant (PUP), following up on the discussions at the August and October meetings. The PUP will be located on Block 16. It is scheduled to be up and running in 2008 to support the Helen Diller Cancer Research Center, which is currently under construction on Block 17, 6 to 8 p.m. UCSF Mission Bay Campus, Genentech Hall, Room S-201, 600 16th Street. Online driving directions and a Mission Bay campus map and can be found at <http://pub.ucsf.edu/missionbay/directions/>. Bring photo ID to show at security.

## January 11

### Art: Naked at Creativity Explored

It may be winter, but the artists of Creativity Explored Gallery are stripping things down to the bare essentials in a new exhibition of original artwork entitled "Naked." Nude figure drawing has been a staple of art education for hundreds of years, but it was a definite first at this studio for artists with developmental disabilities. In sessions with live professional art models over several weeks, the artists worked on classic exercises for drawing the human body. Opening Reception January 11, 7 to 9 p.m. Exhibit to March 1, Mon. through Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat. 1 to 6 p.m. 3245 16th St. at Guerrero. 415.863.2108 [www.creativityexplored.org](http://www.creativityexplored.org)

## January 12-15

### Dance: San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Auditions

109 groups from throughout Northern California are auditioning over four days. Includes local favorites Theatre Flamenco, Fua Dia Congo, the Barbary Coast Cloggers, Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose and more. Fri. 2 to 6 p.m. & 7 to 10 p.m.; Sat. through Mon. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301

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### January 12, 19, 26

#### Kids: Parent and Tot Playtime

Fantastic Fridays. A magical and safe place for toddlers to explore the outdoors with their five senses and to develop a lasting appreciation for living things. Spend quality time with your child making sand animals, becoming bug detectives, listening with our "deer ears," and more. A different adventure every week. Also time in the Center's Art Lab, making fish prints, pirate scopes, and more. Younger and older siblings are welcome with the prior consent of program staff. 10 to 11 a.m. Ages three to five, with parent or guardian. \$10 per child per day. 415.561.7752. Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. Online at [www.crissyfield.org/center](http://www.crissyfield.org/center).

### January 13

#### Community: The Nabe

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House rings in the New Year with an "All You Can Eat" Champagne Jazz Breakfast. The bacon and pancakes start cooking at 9 a.m., so come early! Live music and activities for kids run until 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or by calling 415.826.8080. The event is free for children under six. The Neighborhood House is located at 953 DeHaro Street.

#### Kids: Local Food Challenge

Learn the delights of cooking local, in-season food with Chef Sarah Klein. 10 a.m. to noon. \$8 per person, plus \$15 food fee. Recommended for ages eight and up. Phone 415.561.7752 to make arrangements. Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. Online at [www.crissyfield.org/center](http://www.crissyfield.org/center).

### January 20

#### Poetry: Word Painters

An Afternoon of Poetry featuring Nancy Wakeman, Donald Brennan, Shauna Rogan and Stephen Kopel. Mission Bay Branch Library, 2 to 3 p.m. 960 4th Street at Berry.

### January 20 - February 25

#### Theater: The Magnificence of the Disaster

Rebecca Fisher's emotionally brave, searingly funny account of a Southern family's devastating journey from wealth and gentility to mayhem and tragedy. Unflinchingly honest and unapologetically entertaining, showcases Fisher's gifts as a comic actress and mesmerizing storyteller. 1062 Valencia Street. 8:30 p.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays. \$15-\$22 sliding scale. For tickets, the public may call Brown Paper Tickets at 800.838.3006 or visit [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

### January 23

#### Community: Power Plants

The Potrero Power Plant Task Force is sponsoring a meeting to update the community on San Francisco Public

# Thick Description from Page to Stage

In its early years, when Thick Description was a young theater company just starting out in New York City, sets had to be tailor-made to fit in the back seat of a taxi, so they could be easily transported to the venue de jour. In 1989, the group moved to San Francisco. Now an established company with a permanent home -- in 1999, taxis gave way to the Thick House venue on 18th Street -- Thick Description's willingness to improvise has evolved into a creative, organic approach to production development.

Taking a play from idea to opening night is a complex process that follows a different course with every production that Thick Description stages. Once an idea is born, it awaits the right conjunction of people, time, and money to bring it to the stage.

Generally the process starts on the page. Rather than producing previously-produced works, Thick Description typically collaborates closely with the playwright. The company draws from a network of writers that they've worked with in the past and with whom they've cultivated long-term relationships. The company's current production, the lyrically brooding *Gibraltar* by Octavio Solis, was originally commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 1995, but the Thick Description version has been shortened and tightened, and the piece has been tailored to the company's space and ensemble. The company's collaboration with the playwright dates back to his breakout *Santos & Santos*, which Thick Description produced in 1993.

Utility Commission's proposed siting of three combustion turbines in the Dogpatch neighborhood; as well as possible late-breaking developments related to the Potrero Power Plant and the proposed Trans Bay Cable project. Mirant's Corporation's CEO has been invited, and this may be your last chance to oppose the City's peakers before the Task Force takes a vote. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, 6 to 8 p.m.

### January 26

#### Community: Trans Bay Cable Project

The Potrero Power Plant Task Force and San Francisco Community Power is calling for a moratorium on approval of a proposed \$300 million-plus electric "extension cord" from the City of Pittsburg to the Dogpatch neighborhood. Come tell the Local Area Formation Commission how you feel about the "Trans Bay Cable," which could occupy almost four acres of prime real estate at the Central Water Front. Room 263 City Hall, 2 p.m. For more information: [www.sfpower.org](http://www.sfpower.org).

#### Music: Farley's

Bone-a-Fide Blues, genuine bluesman, Big Bones, is back at

Gibraltar director Tony Kelly and Thick Description co-founder Karen Amano first heard a reading of *Santos & Santos* in 1992. "I was just blown away by this new voice, by the athleticism of the language," Kelly said of his first encounter with Solis' work. Part of Thick Description's mission is to support the development of new plays and playwrights, and to collaborate with other small production companies.

Money is, of course, crucial. Each production costs approximately \$40,000, which needs to be secured early-on in a play's development. Although ticket sales typically cover about one-third of the company's production expenses -- an impressive feat for a small theater, particularly one with sliding-scale ticket pricing -- most funding comes from public and private grants and individual donors. Raising the necessary funds takes time: *American Tropical*, the original opera slated to open at the Thick House in April, 2007, was commissioned through a grant awarded in 2004. "It's really a constant process of watching for the right opportunity," said managing director Hilary Cohen, "But since we've been around so long there are a lot of funders who know us now."

Once funding is secured and the play developed, the show needs to be cast. Thick Description typically works with actors they already know, only holding auditions about once every three years. Dena Martinez and Johnny Moreno, who star in *Gibraltar*, are on their fifth and third Thick Description shows respectively. "Sometimes I'll say oh, that person's perfect for this, and if we really want to work with someone then that could

be a reason to do a show earlier rather than later," said Kelly.

"Something always changes," agreed Cohen. The theater's artistic and business sides really reflect one another, she explained, with the business component needing to be responsive and flexible enough to support the artistic ends. "But that process, those changes, are one of the great pleasures of working here," Cohen reflected.

Founded as an artistic collective by Kelly, Amano, Rick Martin, and David Yezzi, the company's decision-making and artistic processes are relatively collaborative, with each member of the small staff wearing a variety of hats. "Of course there are certain things we each do that nobody else touches" Cohen said, "But we're all always going to put our two cents in."

The name Thick Description comes from an anthropological term coined by Gilbert Ryle and made famous by Clifford Geertz. Geertz claimed that the meaning of human behavior depends on its context, and that "thick description" must not only describe but interpret. "Theater is our thick description of the world around us," explained Cohen.

"We used to doubt ourselves, in the sense that we were artists and didn't think we were any good at organization," said Kelly. "We ran everything like a rehearsal. But we learned that that is really a good thing. In rehearsal you go in with a specific agenda. You have to know what you want to have happen -- but you also have to be willing to lay that aside and just go with it."

Farley's with his harmonica, 8 p.m.

#### Spiritual: Shabbat

Congregation Emanu-El brings services to the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. The very popular First Friday Shabbat will begin at 6 p.m. This musical, upbeat service is perfect for all ages. Late Shabbat is a unique Shabbat experience in the Jewish community for young adults in their 20s and 30s at 7:30 p.m. A small reception will follow each service. For more information contact Mollie Schneider at 415.751.2541 ext. 124, or via email [mschneider@emanuelf.org](mailto:mschneider@emanuelf.org). [www.emanuelf.org](http://www.emanuelf.org). 953 De Haro Street, at Southern Heights Street

#### Ongoing

### Through January 13

#### Theater: Tings Dey Happen

Dan Hoyle portrays warlords, militants, oil workers, prostitutes, and the American ambassador to Nigeria in his new one-man play about Nigerian oil politics based on his year there as a Fulbright scholar. Nigeria and the surrounding Gulf of Guinea region has been targeted as the "new Middle East" of oil security, but militants in the oil-

producing Niger Delta are blowing up pipelines, warlords are threatening outright rebellion, and oil company workers are being kidnapped. Don't miss this long awaited new show from the creator of the hit shows "Circumnavigator" and "Florida 2004: The Big Bummer." Thursday through Saturday, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15-22. Call 800.838.3006 or visit <http://themarsh.org>

#### Music: Country Sundays

Thee Parkside hosts an afternoon of music featuring the Bay Area's best acts playing country, western, bluegrass, Americana, y'all-ternative, and rockabilly. Suitable for all ages. Free; Ongoing Each Sun. 4pm; 1600 17th Street @ Wisconsin. 415.503.0393; <http://www.theeparkside.com>.

#### Music: Sundays at Bottom of the Hill

Be sure to catch one of the Sunday all-you-can-eat BBQ and live band hoedowns for a cheap price. [www.bottomofthehill.com](http://www.bottomofthehill.com)

Got an event you want listed in a future Potrero View edition? Send details to [office@potreroview.net](mailto:office@potreroview.net).

Deadline: no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before.





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good wishes,  
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following &  
fond farewells.

## Thank You Christopher Irion

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We have been  
basking in the glow.

*Avery McGinn  
& all the staff of  
Klein's Deli*

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See more of Christopher Irion's work and support future  
PhotoBooth projects at [www.irionphotography.com](http://www.irionphotography.com)

### Local Theater Companies Cont. from Page 11

Golden Thread Productions  
131 10th Street, Third Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415-626-4061  
[www.goldenthread.org](http://www.goldenthread.org)

Hypnodrome  
575 10th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.248.1900  
[www.hypnodrome.com](http://www.hypnodrome.com)

Intersection for the Arts  
446 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.626.3311  
[www.theintersection.org](http://www.theintersection.org)

Lila Theater  
965 Mission Street, Stage 250  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.820.1467  
[info@lilatheatre.org](mailto:info@lilatheatre.org)  
[www.lilatheatre.org](http://www.lilatheatre.org)

New Langton Arts  
1246 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.626.5416  
[nla@newlangtonarts.org](mailto:nla@newlangtonarts.org)  
[www.newlangtonarts.org](http://www.newlangtonarts.org)

Off Market Theatre  
965 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.771.4806  
[info@offmarkettheater.com](mailto:info@offmarkettheater.com)  
[www.offmarkettheater.com](http://www.offmarkettheater.com)

Project Artaud Theater  
499 Alabama Street #450  
San Francisco, CA. 94110  
Phone: 415.626.4370  
[thcater@artaud.org](mailto:thcater@artaud.org)  
[www.artaud.org/theater](http://www.artaud.org/theater)

Theatre Rhinoceros  
2926 16th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415.861.5079  
[www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)

Theatre of Yugen  
2840 Mariposa St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Phone: 415.621.7978  
[info@theatreofyugen.org](mailto:info@theatreofyugen.org)  
[www.thcatreofyugen.org](http://www.thcatreofyugen.org)

Thiek Description  
1695 18th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
Phone: 415.401.8081  
[www.thiekhhouse.org](http://www.thiekhhouse.org)

Traveling Jewish Theater  
470 Florida Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Phone: 415.399.1809  
[www.atjt.com](http://www.atjt.com)

somArts Cultural Center  
934 Braunan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.632.2131  
[info@somarts.org](mailto:info@somarts.org)  
[www.somarts.org](http://www.somarts.org)

Studio 300  
Phone: 415.255.1048  
[www.okfestudio300.com](http://www.okfestudio300.com)

Victoria Theatre  
2961 16th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.863.7576  
[www.victoriatheatre.org](http://www.victoriatheatre.org)

Z Space Studio  
131 10th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415.626.0453  
[www.zspace.org](http://www.zspace.org)



## What's Up at The Nabe?

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**Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**  
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**Edward Hatter, Executive Director**

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving  
those most in need with an emphasis on youth and education.  
The Nabe is wheelchair accessible.  
All services and activities are free.



# New Kids on the Block & A Family, Divided

## Other Family News

Charlie Berk turns the big zero-one on January 29!

Isaac Siegel Hanly, who's been a proud Hill resident since his birth, turns seven on January 22.

Proud mom Robin Heckenlively sends happy birthday wishes to her daughter Jolie, who celebrated her second birthday on December 24.

Happy birthday to Leo Katz from mom Emily Newman; Leo turns four on January 16.

Claire Offenhartz celebrates her first birthday on January 9.

The Serrao family has two birthdays to celebrate on January 23: Nathaniel turns four and Oliver celebrates his first birthday.

By Liz Fox  
Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

On October 18 Carolina celebrated her second birthday, like her first, in San Pedro de Sula, about 4,000 miles away from her mom and dad. Her paternal grandmother was there, just like she's been every day since Carolina was two months old and her parents, Elena and Jorge, fled Honduras for a new life in San Francisco.

Elena and Jorge did not hear Carolina's first word or see her first step. It's easier not to think about missed milestones, Elena said in an Excelsior neighborhood hole-in-the-wall restaurant, which she often visits for a low-cost meal of hot soup.

Elena and Jorge each paid a coyote \$2,500 to cross the U.S.-Mexico border to escape the notoriously violent and impoverished San Pedro de Sula that had claimed the lives of Jorge's father, brother and sister. Jorge's family members were killed in either gang-related violence or as a result of street crimes. Elena's father was murdered during a robbery in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

But the illegal trek was too dangerous to take their young infant. "She was too little, we couldn't bring her," Elena said, cradling Carmen, their second daughter, who, at four months old, hasn't met her sister. Elena, 22, doesn't know when she will again see her firstborn.

Elena said she worries that Carolina is not safe in San Pedro de Sula, which in the late-1990s was second only to war-plagued Cali, Colombia for the number of homicides in Central and northern South America, according to the World Health Organization.

It's impossible to know how many families like Elena and Jorge's are separated by the U.S. border and immigration status. Immigrant advocates believe that a significant number of the nation's estimated 12 million undocumented workers – mostly teen boys and adult men – have left immediate family members behind. Almost all immigration cases "either directly or indirectly" have to do with family reunification, said Ricardo Calderón, legal services director for the nonprofit Carecen San Francisco, one of a number of organizations that serve the City's immigrant communities. "It's not like one person comes and it's over. It's a chain reaction," he said. Husbands want to bring their wives; wives want to bring their children, parents, brothers and sisters. And so on.

Family reunification is the leading category of legal admittance to the United States. Nationwide, 75 percent of Latin Americans who receive legal residence status are related in some fashion to U.S. citizens. However, the number of people who obtain legal status pales

Continued on Page 22

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## Sailors Unplug, Save Energy

By Allyse Heartwell  
Special to Neighborhood Newswire

Many of today's yachts feature a nearly endless array of electrical amenities. Sophisticated lighting, high-tech appliances, navigational equipment, and entertainment systems collectively demand bigger batteries that take more time to charge.

"If you want to save energy, I'd recommend just not using that stuff at all," said Brad Gross, Harbormaster of the San Francisco Marina Yacht Harbor. "Turn off those lights!"

Many harbormasters are searching for ways to save energy. And a few San Francisco harbormasters are enrolling in Pacific Gas and Electric Company "demand response" programs, which pay participants to temporarily reduce their electricity use when demand is high. Demand response programs help the California Independent Systems Operator (CISO), a nonprofit corporation responsible for managing the electricity grid, maintain reliability by reducing electricity use during high consumption periods.

Jim Nybakken, South Beach Harbor's harbormaster, spends upwards of \$12,000 a month on electricity. That includes running the harbor's main offices, the adjacent Pier 40 facilities, dock lighting, and electrical service to each boat. Although some marinas meter each berth separately, the up-front costs to set up such a system can be prohibitive, and South Beach Harbor includes utility costs in rental fees.

The amount of electricity that each yacht draws can vary significantly. Some have big-screen televisions and freezers, while others are limited to a few lights and a coffee maker. The biggest electricity-hogging gadgets are heaters, air-conditioners, refrigerators, televisions and other luxury items. But even if you don't want to ditch the TV, there are easy steps that all boat owners can take to reduce their electricity use.

As much as a quarter of all electricity demand in the United States is attributable to "phantom loads" drawn by electrical devices that are turned off. TVs that are switched off but still plugged-in can draw up to half the amount of electricity they do while turned on.

Simply unplugging non-essential devices can reduce energy use significantly. An easy way to do this is by plugging some or all electrical devices into a power strip and switching it off when you leave the boat. A battery can draw a phantom load from a charger too, so always unplug your batteries as soon as they're fully charged.

Almost all boats need some kind of lighting system, but the kind of lights you install can make a huge difference in electricity use. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), the latest in energy efficient lighting technology, are well-suited for marine use. They're

long lasting, hold up well under vibration, take up minimal space, and give off a highly directional, often much brighter light than fluorescent bulbs. LEDs are particularly ideal for use as running lights, and are available as anchor, courtesy, bait tank, and chart lights.

"LEDs will save you money in the long run," said Mike Rose of Global Yacht Services, an equipment and services supplier. "I do recommend them. I have them on my own boat, and that's the biggest testament."

Another way to reduce the energy your batteries draw at dock is to simply produce that electricity yourself. "Wind generators work really well, especially for sailboats in San Francisco Bay," said Rose. Most of the wind generators on the market are excellent, said Rose, but he cautioned that only those made specifically for marine use can stand up under sea water corrosion.

Although less appropriate for San Francisco sailors, marine solar technology has also come a long way. "Now you can roll the panels up like a towel!" said Rose. Solar panels can be flexible, weather and seawater proof, and can provide enough energy for small on-board electronic systems.

As Rose points out, the percentage of electricity that can be generated on board is dependent on the size of the boat and the photovoltaic (PV) system. Many small boats can operate on a 12 volt PV system, which can power lights and small appliances. 12 volt coffee makers, blenders, hotplates, and small heaters are all available from marine and RV suppliers.

Jim Nybakken hopes that tenants and boaters will take the easy steps necessary to help South Beach Harbor achieve its electricity reduction goals. "I'd like to see at least two to three percent reduction in our usage," he said. In the past year, South Beach Harbor used 1.4 million kilowatt-hours, and spent \$145,000 on electricity. Under the demand response program, which is being administered by San Francisco Community Power, South Beach Harbor will be compensated for every kilowatt-hour of reduction it makes during "critical peak periods," such as hot summer afternoons. Harbor tenants will be notified that they should take extra steps to reduce their electricity use through dock signage and email messages.

Using less electricity helps harbors keep their costs low, helps users avoid the higher fees that can result from electricity costs, and helps CISO keep the grid functioning reliably.

"Generally speaking, people want to do the right thing. They maybe just haven't thought of doing it or of what it is," said Nybakken. For many harbors and their tenants, the right thing means thinking about what can and can't be unplugged - at the very least while it's not being used.



# Police Blotter

Saturday, December 2, 2006 - 2:35 a.m. - Carjacking - Barneveld and Apparel streets: Officers Weyl and Cabuntala were flagged down by a woman who stated that she'd been carjacked. When the woman entered her car three men approached her. One of the suspects told her to give him the keys. A second suspect had his hand in his coat pocket and simulated a handgun. The woman, fearing for her life, gave the suspects the keys. The suspects were described as three black males in their 20s. All had dark clothing and shoulder length dread locks.

Sunday, December 3, 2006 - 4:50 a.m. - Robbery with a gun - Potrero Hill Housing Project: Three party-goers returned to their parked car in the Potrero Hill Housing Complex. As they were entering their car a truck pulled along side them. The driver asked the party-goers if they had any weed to share with them. They stated that they did not and attempted to leave, but the passenger got out, brandished an Uzi style machine gun and said that they were not going anywhere. The party-goers were then robbed of all of their property. As they were getting relieved of their property, the gunman said, "Sorry it has to go down like this, but you in our hood." The driver of the truck was described as a black male 18- to 25-years-old with dreadlocks. The second suspect was also a black male 18- to 25-years-old, 5' 9", 160 pounds wearing an Oakland A's leather jacket. Hours later, Sergeant Moran found the car that was used in the robbery and had it towed with a hold for fingerprints and DNA analysis.

Monday, December 4, 2006 - 7:30 to 9:20 p.m. - Robbery with a gun - Potrero Hill Area: Bayview officers responded to three separate robberies that appear to have been perpetrated by the same suspect. In all cases the suspect approached the victims as they were getting out of their vehicles or retrieving items from their trunks. The suspect wielded a shotgun and demanded the victims' property. In the first two incidents the victims screamed and/or ran-off and the suspect was not able to retrieve any property. The suspect is described as a black male 25- to 30-years-old, 5' 10" to 6', and heavy set. He was wearing dark clothing, black boots, and baggy pants. In two of the incidents the suspect was seen fleeing in a vehicle. The first car was a silver/tan Range Rover; the second car was a new Pontiac Grand Prix, light in color. The last incident was captured on an external video camera and a picture of the suspect was obtained.

Friday, December 15, 2006 - Possession of Crack Cocaine - 1800 block of Connecticut Street: Plainclothes officers Aherne, Alcaraz, and Solares were on patrol in the Potrero Hill Housing Projects. They saw a male knocking on an abandoned apartment unit and went to investigate. When the man saw the police approach he took a sandwich bag full of individually packaged pieces of rock cocaine and tossed it to the ground. The bag was recovered and the man was arrested. Two individuals inside the abandoned unit were asked to move along.

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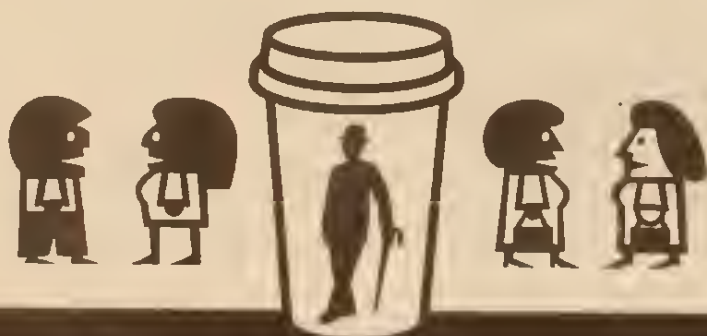
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### Air Quality Continued from Page 4

quality in Bayview-Hunters Point is an example of environmental racism. She has found that many City officials are condescending about the illnesses residents face, often pushing the problem back on them, as if it were a result of residents' personal decisions. "San Francisco is a racist city," said Harrison. "What makes it that way is that people don't recognize it within themselves. People here think that they wouldn't dare be prejudiced against any group of people. But when I attend these meetings and bring up the problems we are facing I always hear, 'Well, that's their problem, that's on their side of town.'"

BAAQMD is taking steps to address localized air quality problems. In 2004 the District established the Community Air

Risk Evaluation (CARE) program, the goal of which is to identify Bay Area communities that are subject to high levels of toxic air emissions. The first program phase, which was completed in October, was to develop a preliminary emissions inventory of toxic air contaminants, as well as demographic and health data. Over the next three years BAAQMD will work to further refine this information and use it as the basis to develop policies to reduce toxic air contaminant emissions in areas with high exposures and sensitive populations.

James Fine, a professor of environmental science at the University of San Francisco, believes that BAAQMD is moving in the right direction. "This is a very ambitious and admirable effort that they're undertaking, because what it's doing is assessing the emissions

burden with regards to toxic air contaminants at the community scale. And this presumably will give them the technical evidence they need to focus emissions reduction programs on the communities where the emissions burden is greatest."

Despite the adversity she's faced,

Harrison remains optimistic about the City's future. "I still think San Franciscans are the most beautiful, progressive people in the world. Because once you talk to people here and they acknowledge that these problems exist, they become powerful forces for change."



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## Boat Building Contined from Page 6

starting with pilot programs this summer," said Harris.

"This is the second time Ed has offered boat building," said Downtown's principal Richard Maggi. "And there was a big interest in it this term. Some of his previous students have gotten jobs directly from completing Ed's course last year."

"The biggest challenge is to work together and complete the project," the slim and fit 30-something Cavanaugh explained. "I often quote Woody Allen's famous line that 90 percent of success in life is just showing up. Most of them have to get to each of the sites on public transportation. And they have to be on time, or they lose credit. That alone is an accomplishment," he said.

An essential component of the boat-building project is learning to sail.

Many of the students are nervous about going out on the water, especially in such a small boat. They have never sailed before.

"Some of these kids don't know how to swim," Cavanaugh admitted. "But I want them to learn how manageable some of their fears really are. Perceived risks, like being on the water or repelling down a rock, if you do them properly, are not a big deal."

Elsie Eustis, from the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, serves as sailing instructor. All aboard wear big orange life jackets, and hit the water

in teams of threes. The winds are gusty in the basin, and the gaff-rigged mainsail swings around while Joe Kolaski and Athens, both big guys, try to hold the boat on the dock. Eustis encourages them to let the sail go, get under the boom and into the little hoat, which they do, one at a time. As they balance their weights, Eustis has them off the dock and sailing. The young men return half an hour later with different reports.

For Kolaski it was great; he wants to go again. For Athens it was "okay." But he's lost some of his fear of the water.

If all goes well, the boat will be finished at the end of the semester. A launch party is planned for January 12 at the Sea Scouts building at the north end of Van Ness Avenue. All Potrero Hill residents are welcome to attend. For more details contact Cavanaugh at 415.336.8449 or laguards@yahoo.com.

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## Trauma Recovery Center Continued

from Page 5

It's a technique that's proven to be highly successful. Before the TRC existed, only six percent of sexual assault victims who came to SF General received mental health treatment; with the TRC's help, 71 percent now receive care. And the number of victims who return to employment is 56 percent higher among the TRC's clients as compared with those who do not receive their services.

Much of the Center's success is attributed to their non-judgmental attitude. Many of the TRC's clients who experience violent crime don't have a support system to lean on and are without a lot of resources. The TRC provides a caring environment, in some cases the only one available to them.

"We really make sure that [our] staff is compassionate and that they really treat people with respect. A lot of the people that we see are not used to being treated well by anyone in their lives," said Dr. Boccellari.

The program has received awards from the San Francisco District Attorney and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, as well as the National Association of Public Hospitals' National Safety Net Award for Patient Services — the TRC being one of two programs in the country to receive this prestigious award. But despite these accolades, it's been an uphill battle to keep the program funded.

In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill that would have provided funding to the Center through the state's Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which "was established to assist all victims of crime by providing reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses" and currently has a \$96 million surplus. In his veto message the governor said that funding an organization instead of individuals is an incorrect use of the VCF "even for a program as successful as the Trauma Recovery Center."

Last October, State Assemblyman Mark Leno and the Public Safety Committee sponsored another funding bill which, after being approved by two-thirds of the State Senate, the governor signed. However, Schwarzenegger limited the Center's funding to one year.

In the meantime, Dr. Boccellari has advocated for state legislation that would open five more centers like the TRC throughout California. Although her perseverance is unrelenting, the task is both time-consuming and daunting. "It's hard to run a program when there's no certainty of the permanence of the funding," said Dr. Boccellari. "To spend all this energy focused on getting legislative bills passed instead of seeing patients, instead of putting my energy into improving the program and improving the quality of care — it's very frustrating."

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**UCSF Continued** from Page 3

gone over the original space ceiling, they have acted in good faith, communicating with us at every turn. Our role is to look out for the public, making sure community concerns and issues are not being ignored."

Dawson notes that during the past two years, when both the DeYoung Museum and Academy of Sciences were closed or located outside Golden Gate Park, the Sunset district has relied on UCSF to attract people to the area and support local merchants. "It's important to look at the big picture," he says. "We lost two of the Sunset's biggest draws; if it hadn't been for UCSF we would have had a dire situation."

Still Dogpatch residents are wary of the university, which, if past history is any guide, will continually push to expand its footprint. And, in contrast to other UCSF campuses, Mission Bay's 43 acres, donated jointly by Catellus Development Corporation and the City and County of San Francisco, is

ringed on three sides by six million square feet zoned for a flexible range of uses - from labs and offices to multimedia and manufacturing - enabling almost any kind of non-residential use. Because the land that surrounds Mission Bay is zoned so broadly, buildings can be developed as market demand shifts, making it much more difficult for community groups to keep tabs on UCSF or other development. As Dogpatch resident Carpinelli says, "We, as a neighborhood, will have to be vigilant and proactive in drawing up guidelines that we feel are acceptable."

John Elberling, a nonprofit housing developer in the South of Market area, and a current Mission Bay resident, is hopeful that over time the community will develop into an attractive place to live. "Given 20 or 30 years, surely the district will develop into something like a traditional neighborhood. You've got to give it time."

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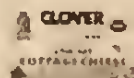


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**Family Divided Continued**  
from Page 15

in comparison to the number who seek it, Calderón said. At Carecen, legal advisors see 10,000 to 12,000 clients a year, just a fraction of the more than 100,000 undocumented immigrants Calderón estimates live in Northern California. Those who apply for legal status for their family members often experience years of

bureaucratic backlogs and delays. Many immigrants don't apply for legal status because the hurdles are too high, said Mark Silverman of San Francisco's Immigration Legal Resource Center. He said about half of the immigrants in the Bay Area who could apply for residency through their family members actually petition do so. U.S.-born children must be 21 years old to petition for their parents. Once a

request is filed, the parents have to leave the U.S. for an interview with employees at an American consulate abroad, with many Central Americans interviewing in Mexico. If the consulate approves an applicant who spent more than one year in the United States illegally, he or she wouldn't be allowed back into the country for another 10 years.

For Elena's family, life has been full of separation. Her father was rarely around before his murder when Elena was 17. Her mother moved to Los Angeles for work and left Elena in the care of her grandmother when she was still in elementary school.

Though there were no family members here to welcome them, San Francisco became home for Elena and Jorge's fresh start. Jorge found jobs as a dishwasher and line cook; Elena picked up extra income as a house cleaner. Carmen made them a unit again, if incomplete. The family was on the rebound, she said.

That ended suddenly when a San Francisco police officer stopped Jorge for crossing a Tenderloin neighborhood street outside the bounds of a crosswalk last July. A pending deportation order from Jorge's failed first attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border was Jorge's ticket to a Bakersfield prison, where he awaits deportation.

Carmen, like her sister before her, now meets her childhood milestones without her father. With their savings running out, Elena walks the hilly San Francisco streets looking for help-wanted posters on church and community bulletin boards, occasionally ducking into a laundromat for cover when Carmen cries from the cold and foggy wind.

"It's like not having a family," Elena said.

Editor's note: Elena, Carolina, Carmen and Jorge's names have been changed, per Elena's request

## Obituaries

Early in the morning of Sunday, November 26 **David Ayoob**, owner of Four Star Video, succumbed to a heart attack. David had a huge impact in the Bernal Heights community as well as ours, and will be missed. Dave approached small business as not only a means for personal contentment, but as a way to build community. He guided friends, family and colleagues through aspects of personal growth as well as through times of worry. As a small business owner, philanthropist, volunteer and co-president of the Cortland Merchant's Association, he set an example of what one individual can contribute to society. From planting trees and cleaning sidewalks to spearheading campaigns to raise money for local schools, Dave's generosity was as famous as his flamboyant sense of style. Dave leaves behind two lovely daughters, Kelly and Julie; his mother; and a humble but deeply meaningful legacy of local business. A memorial service was held for Dave at 2pm on Saturday, December 9, at St. Kevin's Church on Cortland Avenue.

On the morning of December 2, Dave's domestic partner, **Leo Laxamana**, also passed away. Leo had been long unwell and was preparing for his eventual passing.

Leo Laxamana leaves behind his mother, siblings and many great friends. Thanks to an arrangement with the Neptune Society of Northern California, Leo's ashes will be scattered on the San Francisco Bay. This final gesture is fitting for a man whose passionate life was so rooted in the Bay Area.

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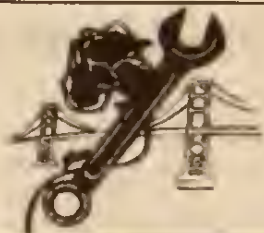
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Photo by Timberly Hughes

Daniel Webster Elementary School students Abriel Tobaina (far left) and Khalic Harris, along with 38 of their classmates, participated in a ropes course at Mission Cliffs. The course, which was funded by Potrero Hill-based nonprofit LYNC, is part of training in outdoor adventure and environmental awareness.



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